



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS,
TRIBAL AND PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

February 27, 2014

Jennie O'Connor Card
Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort Parking Improvements EIS Team Leader
Mt. Hood National Forest
6780 Highway 35
Mt. Hood-Parkdale, Oregon 97041

Re: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency comments on the Mt. Hood National Forest Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision for the Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort Parking Improvements. (EPA Region 10 Project Number: 11-4114-AFS).

Dear Ms. O'Connor Card,

This review was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

In our June 17, 2013 comments on the DEIS, we stated our belief that the DEIS adequately sets forth the environmental impacts of the preferred alternative and those alternatives reasonably available to the project. We noted our support for the Aquatics Project Design Criteria, especially PDC A-16 which aims to maintain predevelopment hydrology for the site. We also included our environmental concerns. Implementing the project will result in an unavoidable loss of suitable habitat for Northern spotted owls, adversely affect east-west migration routes for deer and elk, and disturb riparian vegetation.

While unavoidable environmental impacts remain, we agree that the Draft Record of Decision's Selected Alternative meets the project's primary purpose to serve design capacity for parking and minimizes unavoidable environmental impacts from parking lot construction and maintenance.

To help reduce the need for further parking lot expansions, we encourage continuation of your ongoing collaborative efforts regarding transportation demand management. Please continue to consider, for example, preferential parking for carpools.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and if you have questions please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or by electronic mail at reichgott.christine@epa.gov, or you may contact Erik Peterson of my staff at (206) 553-6382 or by electronic mail at peterson.erik@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Christine B. Reichgott", is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit